

FOLKWAYS

them, however. It did not make them laborers.¹ In general, in the valley of the Yapura, in the first half of the nineteenth century, slaves were war captives who were very unkindly treated.² The aborigines began to sell their war captives to Europeans soon after the latter arrived. They wanted rosewood especially, and they took Indians to Africa as slaves.³ Boggiani⁴ expresses the opinion in regard to the savages of the Chaco, as the meadow region on the Paraguay river is called, that slavery amongst a people of more civilized mores, is, for them, "an incalculable benefit," and that "to hinder slavery, in such circumstances, would be a capital error." "It is necessary to force them to come out of their brutelike condition, and to awaken their intelligence, which is not wanting, if they receive practical and energetic direction." Bridges⁵ says that one Fuegian is thrown into clientage to another by their mode of life. "For a young man, with no wife and few relatives, must live with some one who can protect him, and with whom he can live in comfort, whose wife or wives can catch fish for him, etc."

279. Slavery in Polynesia and Melanesia. Polynesia, Melanesia, and the East Indies, especially the last, present us pictures of a society which is old and whose mores have been worn threadbare, while their stage of civilization is still very low. Codrington⁶ says: "There is no such thing as slavery, properly so called. In head-hunting expeditions prisoners are made for the sake of their heads, to be used when occasion requires, and such persons live with their captors in a condition very different from that of freedom, but they are not taken or maintained for the purposes of slaves." Ratzel⁷ says: "Slavery prevailed everywhere in Melanesia, originating either in war or debt. Sometimes it was hard; sometimes not." Somerville says that "slaves are kept chiefly for their heads, which are demanded whenever any occasion necessitates them, such as the death of the owner." He is speaking of the Solomon Islands.⁸ What Finsch says of the Melanesians may be extended to all the inhabitants of the South Sea islands.⁹ They will not work because they do not need to. They have few wants. Pfeil wants to make the people of German Melanesia work, in order that they may contribute to the tasks of the human race. The problem presents one of the great reasons for slavery in history.

280. Slavery in the East Indies. The chief of Chittagong¹⁰ wrote to the English governor, in 1774, that slavery in his district was due to the sale of himself by any person who was destitute, and had no friends or position. He and his wife must serve the master and his wife in any desired

¹ Varnhagen, *Hist. Geral do Brasil*, I, 115, 178, 181, 269, 273.

² v. Martius, 72.

⁸ Varnhagen, *Hut. do Brasil*, I, 431 ; v. Martius, 131.

* *Caduvei*, I, 100.

⁷ *Volkerkunde*, II,

279.

⁵ *Voice for South Amer.*, XIII, 201.

⁸ JAI, XXVI, 400.

⁶ *Melanesians*, 346.

⁹ *Samoafahrten* ^

170.

¹⁰ Lewin, *Wild Raw of S. E. India*, 85.